

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Billings Gazette Article - "Patch's death adds fuel to bat debate" by Ed West on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 quoted "Jeff Ballard would love to see the day that American Legion baseball players are using wood bats full-time." Ballard believes that players are so strong today from Legion age on through college that the velocities produced by metal bats put pitchers at a greater risk. While Ballard knows that Patch's life might not have been saved even had a wood bat been in use, he still believes the game would be better if wood would make a comeback.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

No Major League Baseball pitchers have died of a line drive. Although Mr Jeff Ballard, Manager of the Billings American Legion Teams will talk of him being hit by a baseball while pitching a game, how many comas has Mr. Ballard suffered?

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Medical/Safety Advisory Committee of USA Baseball's **three year study** compares NCAA College baseball teams to summer college league teams. The NCAA College baseball teams are self reporting and only a small percentage of teams **actually** report injuries. **(2005: only a mere 4.3 percent reported!)**

**USA Baseball could not provide supporting documentation upon request due to the study being unpublished.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The **Nine Month American Legion Study** was **not** a paid study but a "review done by a subgroup of the American Legion.

**No supporting documentation of the review was available upon request.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Work hardening means the more a aluminum bat is used the "livelier" it can get? The speed can increase the ball exit speed by up to 3 mph? This is **after** the bat has already been tested.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Not only can metal bats dent because of the thin walled metals but they can also shatter in colder climates.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The metal bats today, such as the Easton Stealth are costly...around **\$400** and are only warranted for one season. Returns must be made directly through Easton?

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Once bats pass the initial BESR tests, we cannot find any infield tests done by the NCAA.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The end caps of the metal bat can be removed and foreign objects placed inside of the bat for more trampoline.

*Gama m. Clarkson*